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69. The process of claim 68, wherein the ultrafiltration is carried out at a pH from about 9.0 to about 10.0.

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71. An assay for screening an amino acid sequence for the ability to improve folding of an insulin precursor, comprising:

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72. The assay of claim 71, wherein the chimeric protein consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.

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74. The assay of claim 71, wherein the chaotropic auxiliary agent is urea.

5 75. The assay of claim 71, further comprising contacting the chimeric protein, in step (a) and (b) respectively, with a quantity of a mercaptan, which quantity yields less than 5 -SH radical of the mercaptan per cysteine residue of the chimeric protein.

76. The process of claim 75, wherein the mercaptan is 2-  
10 mercaptoethanol.

77. The product of the assay of claim 71.

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Figure 1A

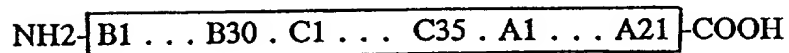


Figure 1B

